

**APPRAISAL OF CURRENT CONCEPTS IN ANESTHESIOLOGY**—Edited and assembled by John Adriani, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, La.; Clinical Professor of Surgery and Pharmacology, Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans, La.; Director, Department of Anesthesiology, Charity Hospital of Louisiana, New Orleans, La. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1961. 279 pages, \$7.75.

This book consists of forty-five brief discussions on various topics of interest to Clinical Anesthesiologists.

A few of the many subjects mentioned are: Anesthetic management for cardiotomy; physiologic alterations during induced hypothermia; infant resuscitation; sterilization of special anesthetic agents, and shock and anesthesia. The topics presented have been used in the residency training program at Charity Hospital and have been published as an aid to directors of the training programs and for use by clinical anesthesiologists not connected with a teaching institution.

The subject material is practically all clinical and presented clearly. It is excellent for the purpose for which it was published.

CHARLES F. MCCUSKEY, M.D.

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**RELIEF OF SYMPTOMS**—Second Edition—Walter Modell, M.D., F.A.C.P., Director of Clinical Pharmacology and Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, N. Y. C. V. Mosby Company, 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, Mo., 1961. 374 pages, \$11.50.

The great achievement of our time, the cure with a specific drug, is a miracle before which simple relief of a symptom may seem unimportant—or even a bore. Too often today, only the cultist, the charlatan, and the unscientific practitioner consciously and purposefully direct their main efforts to the satisfaction of the patient's initial request—the relief of his symptoms.

It is well to remember that the patient's sensibilities have not changed along with medical science: They are just as basic as ever. Patients feel symptoms, fear them, resent them, react to them and seek relief from them for the same old reasons that they did when symptom treatment was virtually all medicine could offer. If, in the interest of a cure—which may be a long time coming—we ignore the patient's request for relief, and if sufficient alleviation of the symptom does not come directly or indirectly, we must expect that some of them will try to find relief elsewhere. Why else, in this age of science, this era of the triumphant cure, do the practices of the cultist and the charlatan still flourish?

The case for special and consistent consideration of symptom relief rests on two facts: (1) Modern symptom relieving drugs often offer patients more and prompt relief than that which is incidental to treatment of the disease itself. (2) The symptom per se may be a malignant force and deserving of special consideration as such.

Everything discussed in this book bears directly on the relief of symptoms and is planned to serve as a basis for relieving them. The field is broad, and this has made it necessary to consider the cause, composition, and treatment of each symptom separately. The list of twenty-seven discussed is not exhaustive; but, it includes over 95 per cent of those which bring patients to a doctor's office.

There are 24 tables in the book which differentiate generic and proprietary names, listing the various drugs according to their composition, mode of action and mode of administration. These tables alone are worth the price of the book. No single physician can keep up with the variety and complexity of the new drugs being offered by the pharmaceutical manufacturers or with the claims or the origins thereof.

With the aid of this book he can bring a good deal of logical order into the pharmaceutical chaos. Tables 7, 8, 9 and 10 (on *hypnotics and sedatives of the barbiturate series*, on *other hypnotics and sedatives*, on *tranquilizers and antidepressants*) will be extremely helpful—even if somewhat startling to the average physician—who may be surprised to find the same chemical represented by several different proprietary names and advertised for different conditions.

Dr. Modell's introduction of the clinical problem of gas is a classic which the reviewer feels is worth reproducing:

"Our special social taboos attached to the phenomenon of gas in the intestinal tract make it difficult for both patient and doctor to discuss the accumulation of gas, its movement, its rumblings and—most embarrassing of all—its release. The language available for describing this phenomenon is so equivocal and—even in medical terminology—so qualified by restrictions that the only precise term available is not at present in decent usage. This state of affairs was brought home to me when a patient, one of the world's outstanding lady scientists, found that the most precise as well as the simplest way for her to describe her difficulties was to use a short word which I cannot use here."

Because of its origins (in medical school teaching) as well as its point of view, this book is addressed largely to medical students and to younger graduates whose philosophy and habits of practice have not yet "set." However, we believe that it will appeal greatly to most physicians who are interested in a sensible classification of drugs as well as those concerned with the relief of symptoms.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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**CEREBRAL VASCULAR DISEASES**—Transactions of the Third Conference Held Under the Auspices of the American Neurological Association and the American Heart Association, Princeton, New Jersey; January 4-6; 1961. Conference Supported by a Grant from National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness. Clark H. Millikan, Chairman; Robert G. Siekert and Jack P. Whisnant, Editors. Published for the American Neurological Association and the American Heart Association by Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N. Y., 1961. 247 pages, \$5.75.

As is true of the two previous volumes concerning the conferences on cerebral vascular diseases, the present volume contains a synthesis of the most current thinking about all aspects of strokes. It is divided into roughly three sections, each section being devoted to the current thinking concerning the pathogenesis and treatment of incipient or impending strokes, progressing stroke, and completed stroke. In the present volume the various clinical types of stroke are more clearly defined. The place of arteriography and the diagnosis of stroke is again emphasized and its technique and complications fully discussed.

Anticoagulant therapy has now become an established method of treating incipient strokes as well as progressing strokes providing cerebral hemorrhage can reasonably be ruled out. Surgical therapy, i.e., endarterectomy has proved quite effective in the hands of a few vascular surgeons in large teaching centers, although it requires an extreme degree of cooperation between neurologists, radiologists, and neurosurgeons to be safe and effective procedure.

The book also contains a brief but up-to-date discussion of thrombolytic agents which is an exciting new concept in the treatment of thromboses, although to date it must remain entirely at an experimental level.

In summary, the book is recommended to all who are interested in the treatment of strokes since it contains all of the significant recent contributions and thinking in this field handily brought together in one volume.

ALBERT F. PETERMAN, M.D.